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Senator Says Russians Should Pay To Clear New Embassy of Bugs

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WASHINGTON, April 5 — A leading Senate Democrat said today that before the Soviet Union opens its new embassy in Washington it should be required to reimburse the United States for the cost of making the new American Embassy in Moscow secure.

The proposal, by Senator Patrick J. Leahy of Vermont, followed reports that the new embassy in Moscow, which is still under construction, had been laced with listening devices, implanted in prefabricated concrete pillars and panels that were made by

Soviet crews.

"The fact is, this embassy can never, ever be made secure, ever," Senator Leahy said on the CBS News program "Face the Nation."

Senator Leahy, a former vice chairman of the Senate Intelligence Committee, said his proposal revived an idea he had offered two years ago with Senator Lawton Chiles, Democrat of Florida. "I think we ought to do what Senator Chiles and I said a couple of years ago, and require payment from the Soviets for the damages that have been caused in that or not allow them to go into their own new embassy here in Washington," he said today.

3 Marine Guards Arrested

The recent concern over embassy security also stems from the arrest of three United States marines who have been guards at the current embassy. Two of them are accused of having let K.G.B. agents into the building and are charged with espionage.

The new United States Embassy, which was scheduled to be occupied in 1989, has already cost \$190 million, and technical experts estimate that \$20 million to \$40 million more will be required to deactivate or remove bugging devices.

Senator Leahy said Saturday that because there was "no way possible to make that embassy secure," the only solution was to "tear it down and start all over again."

Arthur A. Hartman, a former Ambassador to Moscow, said on "Face the Nation" today that it would be wise to wait for James R. Schlesinger, a former Director of Central Intelligence, to complete a study of the new building before deciding whether it had to be torn down or could be repaired. Under the terms of the Soviet-American agreement on the embassies, Mr. Hartman noted, both countries' diplomats are to move into their new buildings simultaneously.

Some members of Congress and intelligence specialists have sought ways of preventing the Soviet move, noting that the new embassy sits on the second-highest point in Washington, Mount Alto, 350 feet above sea level, from which sophisticated devices are believed capable of intercepting electronic communications.

"The Soviets are allowed to play by entirely different rules than we do," Senator Leahy said. "Our embassy over there, the new embassy's that being built, is in a swamp surrounded by buildings controlled by the K.G.B. Their embassy is sitting up on Mount Alto here in Washington with antennas that can go into the Pentagon, the White House, Treasury, C.I.A., everything else."